Amendments to the Claims

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) A method for detecting a polypeptide in a cell or tissue sample, wherein the sample comprises a nerve cell or a nerve progenitor cell and ~~according to Claim 1~~ wherein said polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule as represented by the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8 or 9 ~~Figure 1 or 2~~;

b) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridises to the nucleic acid molecule in (a); or

c) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which is degenerate to the nucleic acid molecule represented in (a) and (b); said method comprising the steps of;

i) providing a sample comprising a nerve cell or a nerve cell progenitor cell;

ii) contacting said sample with an agent which binds said polypeptide; and

iii) detecting the presence of said polypeptide in said cell sample.

3. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to Claim 2, wherein said polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridises under stringent hybridisation conditions to the nucleic acid sequence as represented in SEQ ID NO: 8 or 9 ~~Figure 1 or 2~~.

4. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to Claim 3, wherein said nucleic acid is represented by the nucleic acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 8 or 9 ~~Figure 1 or 2~~.

5. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method of Claim 2, ~~according to any of Claims 2-4~~ wherein said polypeptide is represented by the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 10 or 11 ~~Figures 3 and 4~~ wherein said sequence has been modified by addition, deletion or substitution of at least one amino acid residue.

6. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method of Claim 2, ~~according to any of Claims 1-5~~ wherein said agent is an antibody which binds said polypeptide.

7. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to Claim 6 wherein said antibody is a polyclonal antibody or a monoclonal antibody.

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method of Claim 6, ~~according to any of Claims 6-8~~ wherein said antibody is provided with means which enable the detection of the antibody bound to said polypeptide.

10. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to Claim 9, wherein said detection means is ~~selected from the group consisting of:~~ an enzyme; a isotope label or a fluorescent label.

11. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method of Claim 1, ~~according to any of Claims 1-5~~ wherein said method is the detection of a nucleic acid molecule which encodes said polypeptide.

12. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to Claim 11, wherein said agent is a nucleic acid molecule adapted to anneal to said nucleic acid molecule which encodes said polypeptide.

13. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to Claim 12, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is at least one oligonucleotide molecule.

14. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to Claim 13, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is a pair of oligonucleotide molecules adapted to bind said nucleic acid molecule which is to be detected.

15. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to Claim 14, wherein said method is a polymersase chain reaction method.

16. (currently amended) A method of treating neurodegenerative diseases which result from abnormal expression of a polypeptide, comprising administration of a medicament comprising the polypeptide, wherein the polypeptide is ~~The use of a polypeptide~~ selected from the group consisting of:

i) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule as represented by the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8 or 9~~Figure 1 or 2~~;

ii) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridises to the nucleic acid molecule in (i); or

iii) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which is degenerate because of the genetic code to the nucleic acid molecule represented in (i) and (ii).

~~for the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases which result from abnormal expression of said polypeptide.~~

17. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to Claim 16, wherein said polypeptide is encoded ~~encoded~~ by a nucleic acid molecule.

18. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to Claim 16, ~~or 17~~ wherein said polypeptide is represented by the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 10 or 11 ~~Figures 3 and 4~~ wherein said sequence has been modified by addition, deletion or substitution of at least one amino acid residue.

19. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to Claim 17 wherein said nucleic acid molecule is part of a vector adapted for gene therapy.

20. (currently amended) A method of treating neurodegenerative diseases which result from abnormal expression of a polypeptide, comprising administration of a medicament comprising

~~The use of~~ an antagonist which interacts with the ~~a~~ polypeptide, wherein the polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

i) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule as represented by the sequence in SEQ ID NO: 8 or 9~~Figure 1 or 2~~;

ii) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridises to the nucleic acid molecule in (i); or

iii) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which is degenerate to the nucleic acid molecule represented in (i) and (ii).

~~for use in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases which result from abnormal expression of said polypeptide.~~

21. (currently amended) The method of ~~Use according to~~ Claim 20, wherein said polypeptide is represented by the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 10 or 11 ~~Figures 3 and 4~~ wherein said sequence has been modified by addition, deletion or substitution of at least one amino acid residue.

22. (currently amended) The method of Claim 20, ~~Use according to Claim 20 or 21~~ wherein said disease is ~~selected from the group consisting of:~~ Alzheimer's disease; Parkinson's disease; multiple sclerosis; or a retinopathy.

23. (currently amended) The method of Claim 20, ~~Use according to any of Claims 20-22~~ wherein said antagonist is an antibody or antibody part which binds said polypeptide.

24. (currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of Claim 23, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody or binding part thereof.

25. (currently amended) The method of Claim 23, ~~Use according to Claim 23 or 24~~ wherein said antibody part ~~fragment~~ is a Fab fragment.

26. (currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of Claim 25, wherein said antibody part ~~fragment~~ is selected from the group consisting of: $F(ab')_2$, Fab, Fv and Fd fragments; and CDR3 regions.

27. (currently amended) ~~Use according to any of Claims 24-26~~ The method of Claim 24, wherein said antibody is a humanised.

28. (currently amended) ~~Use according to any of Claims 24-26~~ The method of Claim 24, wherein said antibody is a chimeric antibody.

29. (currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of Claim 20, wherein said antagonist is a nucleic acid molecule.

30. (currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of Claim 29, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is a transcription cassette comprising an nucleic acid molecule operatively linked to a promoter which promoter transcribes said nucleic acid molecule to produce an antisense nucleic acid molecule, said sequence selected from the group consisting of:

i) a nucleic acid sequence, or part thereof, as represented in SEQ ID NO: 8 or 9 ~~Figure 1 or 2~~;

ii) a nucleic acid sequence which hybridises to the sense sequence presented in SEQ ID NO: 8 or 9 ~~Figure 1 or 2~~ and which encodes a polypeptide with anti-apoptotic activity.

31. (currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of Claim 30, wherein said cassette is part of a vector.

32. (currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of Claim 29, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a transcription cassette wherein said a nucleic acid molecule, or part thereof, selected from the group consisting of:

i) a nucleic acid molecule represented by the nucleic acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 8 or 9 ~~Figure 1 or 2~~;

ii) a nucleic acid molecule which hybridises to the sequences in (i) above and which encodes a polypeptide with anti-apoptotic activity; or

iii) a nucleic acid molecule which is degenerate as a consequence of the genetic code to the sequences defined in (i) and/or (ii) above; wherein said cassette is adapted such that both sense and antisense nucleic acid molecules are transcribed from said cassette.

33. (currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of Claim 32, wherein said cassette is provided with at least two promoters adapted to transcribe both sense and antisense strands of said nucleic acid molecule.

34. (currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of Claim 32, wherein said cassette comprises a nucleic acid molecule wherein said molecule comprises a first part linked to a second part wherein said first and second parts are complementary over at least part of their sequence and further wherein transcription of said nucleic acid molecule produces an RNA molecule which forms a double stranded region by complementary base pairing of said first and second parts.

35. (currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of Claim 34, wherein said first and second parts are linked by at least one nucleotide base.

36. (currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of Claim 35, wherein said first and second parts are linked by 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or at least 10 nucleotide bases.

37. (currently amended) ~~Use according to any of Claims 32-36~~ The method of Claim 32, wherein the length of said RNAi molecule is between 100bp-1000bp.

38. (currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of Claim 37, wherein the length of said RNAi molecule is ~~selected from~~ at least 100bp; 200bp; 300bp; 400bp; 500bp; 600bp; 700bp; 800bp; 900bp; or 1000bp.

39. (currently amended) ~~Use according to any of Claims 32-36~~ The method of Claim 32, wherein said RNAi is at least 1000bp in length.

40. (currently amended) ~~Use according to any of Claims 32-36~~ The method of Claim 32, wherein said RNAi molecule is between 15bp and 25bp in length.

41. (currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of Claim 40, wherein said RNAi molecule is 21bp in length.

42. (currently amended) ~~Use according to any of Claims 32-41~~ The method of Claim 32 wherein said cassette is part of a vector.

43. (original) A method to screen for agents which modulate the activity of a polypeptide which induces the apoptotic function of p53 comprising the steps of:

i) providing a cell sample comprising a nerve cell or nerve progenitor cell;

ii) contacting said sample with an agent to be tested; and

iii) monitoring effect of said agent on the presence and/or activity of said polypeptide.

44. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to Claim 43, wherein said polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule as represented by the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8 or 9 ~~Figure 1 or 2~~;

b) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridises to the nucleic acid molecule in (a); or

c) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which is degenerate to the nucleic acid molecule represented in (a) and (b).

45. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to Claim 43 ~~or 44~~ wherein said agent is an antagonist or agonist of said polypeptide.

46. (canceled)